

**§ 652.39**

**7 CFR Ch. VI (1-1-10 Edition)**

including all the individuals identified as authorized to provide technical services under the auspices of such organization. The decertifying official may also limit the scope of decertification, for example, to one or more specifically named individuals identified as authorized to provide technical services under the organization's auspices or to an organizational element of such private sector entity or public agency. The scope of decertification will be set forth in the decertification determination and will be based upon the facts of each decertification action, including whether actions of particular individuals can be imputed to the larger organization.

(b) In cases where specific individuals are decertified only, an entity or public agency must file within 10 calendar days an amended Certification Agreement removing the decertified individual(s) from the Certification Agreement. In addition, the entity or public agency must demonstrate that, to the satisfaction of the State Conservationist, the entity or public agency has taken affirmative steps to ensure that the circumstances resulting in decertification have been addressed.

**§ 652.39 Mitigating factors.**

In considering whether to decertify, the period of decertification, and scope of decertification, the deciding official will take into consideration any mitigating factors. Examples of mitigating factors include, but are not limited to the following:

(a) The technical service provider worked, in a timely manner, to correct any deficiencies in the provision of technical service;

(b) The technical service provider took the initiative to bring any deficiency in the provision of their technical services to the attention of NRCS and sought NRCS advice to remediate the situation; and

(c) The technical service provider took affirmative steps to prevent any failures in the provision of technical services from occurring in the future.

**§ 652.40 Effect of decertification.**

(a) The Department will not make payment under a program contract for the technical services of a decertified

technical service provider that were provided during the period of decertification. Likewise, NRCS will not procure, or otherwise enter into an agreement for, the services of a decertified technical service provider during the period of decertification.

(b) National decertification list. NRCS shall maintain a current list of decertified technical service providers. NRCS shall remove decertified providers from the list of certified providers. Participants may not hire a decertified technical service provider. It is the participant's responsibility to check the decertified list before hiring a technical service provider. Decertification of a technical service provider in one State decertifies the technical service provider from providing technical services under current programs in all States, the Caribbean Area, and the Pacific Basin Area.

**§ 652.41 Effect of filing deadlines.**

A technical service provider's failure to meet the filing deadlines under this subpart will result in the forfeiture of appeal rights. All filings must be received by NRCS no later than the close of business (5 p.m.) the last day of the filing period.

**§ 652.42 Recertification.**

A decertified technical service provider may apply to be re-certified under the certification provisions of this part after the period of decertification has expired. A technical service provider may not utilize the certification renewal process in an attempt to be recertified after being decertified.

**PART 653—TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

Sec.

- 653.1 General.
- 653.2 Technical standards and criteria.
- 653.3 Adaptation of technical standards.
- 653.4 Availability of technical standards.

AUTHORITY: 7 CFR 2.62.

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**§ 653.1 General.**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for the technical adequacy of conservation

## Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA

## § 654.1

practices installed under all NRCS programs, and those practices applied under programs administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) where NRCS has the technical responsibility. NRCS technical or financial assistance will be provided when the practices are applied according to established technical standards.

### § 653.2 Technical standards and criteria.

Technical standards and criteria have been established for all conservation practices. They provide the guidance and direction needed to assure that the practices meet the intended purpose and are of the quality needed to assure lasting for the design life. Standards and criteria are developed in consultation with universities, research institutions, and individual industrial and private firms and individuals. Research information and practical experience are used in setting standards. Changes and new technical standards and criteria are prepared in the same manner as set out above.

### § 653.3 Adaptation of technical standards.

Technical standards and criteria developed on a national basis may require special adaptation to meet local needs. These adaptations must be approved by the Administrator of the Natural Resources Conservation Service or his designee.

### § 653.4 Availability of technical standards.

Information on technical standards used by NRCS is available at field, area, or State offices of NRCS.

## PART 654—OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

### Subpart A—General

- Sec.  
654.1 Purpose and scope.  
654.2 Definitions.

### Subpart B—Federal Financially-Assisted Projects

- 654.10 Operation and maintenance agreement.

- 654.11 Sponsor(s)' responsibility.  
654.12 Financing operations and maintenance.  
654.13 Designating responsibility for operation and maintenance.  
654.14 Duration of sponsor(s)' responsibility.  
654.15 Operation and maintenance.  
654.16 Property management.  
654.17 Inspection.  
654.18 Natural Resources Conservation Service responsibility.  
654.19 Plan of operation and maintenance.  
654.20 Violations of operation and maintenance agreement.

### Subpart C—Conservation Operations

- 654.30 Responsibility for operation and maintenance.  
654.31 Performing operation and maintenance.

### Subpart D—Emergency Watershed Protection

- 654.40 Responsibility for operation and maintenance.  
654.41 Performance of operation and maintenance.

### Subpart E—Great Plains Conservation Program

- 654.50 Responsibility for operation and maintenance.

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SOURCE: 42 FR 58159, Nov. 8, 1977, unless otherwise noted.

### Subpart A—General

#### § 654.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) This part sets forth the operation and maintenance requirements pertaining to measures installed with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assistance. This includes measures installed under the following programs:

- (1) Federal financially-assisted projects.
  - (i) Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention (WP&FP). See part 622 of this title.